

(The Erick Hawkins Dance Company, p. 3)

Hurrah! was first presented to the world on July 5, 1975 in the Blossom Music Center and the music for this dance is Virgil Thomson's Symphony No. 2 in C Major (1941) and on Thursday night Virgil Thomson was here and he was in the center box and he accepted the applause of the audience at the conclusion of the dance. A full orchestra is on stage and what appear to be police barricades are being set up on stage and silence and four men in blue wearing straw hats and three women in bright pink and a fourth in pale pink are now on stage and three of the men have taken off their hats and have thrown them into the audience and, it goes without saying, this is an explicit attempt to dissolve the barriers between the performers and the spectators but they are there and we are here and the fourth man has taken off his hat and the audience is doubtless waiting for the moment when he will throw his straw hat into the audience and it will in all probability be at the end and the audience is supposedly more "involved" because they are watching and waiting for the moment when the hat will be thrown and they want the hat and the hat for them is the wheat and the dance is the chaff and the hat is now hanging on a police barricade on the left. The Tennessee Waltz is quoted in Thomson's Symphony No. 2 and there are other quotations that I recognize but I can not think of the names of the works quoted from and the music is glorious and the choreography is glorious and this work should be called, for example, "A Modern Dance Choreographed by Erick Hawkins and Danced to Virgil Thomson's Symphony No. 2 in C Major," or simply, "A Dance Choreographed by Erick Hawkins and Danced to Virgil Thomson's Symphony No. 2 in C Major." To attach a choreographic program to an abstract musical composition is to make a metaphor concrete and to connect it irrevocably with a particular place and a particular time and "the scene at this beautiful spot was exciting and picturesque in the extreme. I wished for Landseer's pencil." And the fourth hat remains on the stage and Plato is in his cave.

(Carnegie Hall: 9-13-75)